Production of Silk in North-Eastern Region

878. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the details of the steps taken in the preceeding five (years to promote production, processing and trading of silk in Assam and other States of North-Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): In Order to supplement efforts of the State Sericulture Department, the Central Silk Board (CSB) is implementing a large number of schemes/projects/programmes for promoting development of all the 4 types of silk. These includes schemes for extension of R&D training, infrastructure extension support to the sector through a net work of CSB units and implementation of certain development/ investments/financial assistance schemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericulture practices for production of quality silk. Besides CSB also takes up specific sericulture project like World Bank assisted NSP, Action Plan for the North Eastern states etc., in association/ collaboration with the States. As far as Assam and other States of North Eastern states are concerned some of the specific projects taken up by CSB during the VHIth Five Year Plan are as follows:

(i) Under the National Sericulture Project which was implemented in two districts in Assam infrastructure facilities were created such as basic seed farms, technical service centres. Cocoon markets, demonstration cum training centre for reelers and weavers, etc.

(ii) North Eastern Action Plan covering Assam and other States of the North Eastern region in presently under implementation which provides assistance towards increase in acreage by plantation, training to farmers, reelers, setting up of cocoon training facilities and assistance for setting up of reeling units, etc. This project is being continued during the IXth Plan period.

(iii) Assistance is extended to the agencies for marketing various cocoons.

(iv) Project development and domestic marketing for Eri and Muga.

(v) Muga raw-material sale depot was set up at Guwahati.

(vi) To boost the production of silk 34 Catalytic Development Schemes have been sanctioned for the IXth Plan period.

Tourist potential in Kerala

879. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that tourist potential is very good in Kerala and it has not been fully exploited; and

(b) if so, what steps have taken to expand tourist facilities in collaboration With State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Financial assistance has been provided to the Government of Kerala for the implementation of several projects to expand tourist facilities in the State. The amounts sanctioned to the State Government during the last three years are as given below:—

Year	Amount
	(Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	209.94
1996-97	235.59
1997-98	282.00
TOTAL	727.53

राजस्थान में पुष्कर और तारागढ़ का विकास

880. **श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत :** क्या पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार की करोड़ो श्रद्धालुओं के आस्था का केन्द्र पुष्कर तीर्थ स्थल को पर्यटन स्थल के रुप में विकसित करने की कोई योजना है; यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) क्या ऐतिहासिक महापुरुष सम्राट पृथ्वीराज चौहान के दुर्ग तारागढ़ और अजमेर के पृथ्वीराज स्मारक को पर्यटन स्थल के रुप में विकसित करने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है; यदि हां, तो इस संबंध मे क्या प्रगति हुई है; और